

2003
VIRGINIA PLASTIC PESTICIDE CONTAINER
RECYCLING PROGRAM

FINAL REPORT

Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Virginia Pesticide Control Board

The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS), in cooperation with the Virginia Pesticide Control Board (PCB) and local governments, continued the Plastic Pesticide Container Recycling Program (PPCRP) in 2003. The program offers the agricultural community as well as pest control firms an environmentally responsible alternative for the disposal of properly rinsed plastic pesticide containers. In its eleventh year of operation, the PPCRP recycled approximately 54,000 plastic pesticide containers in eighteen localities and eleven pesticide dealer locations.

The localities and pesticide dealers in the 2003 program were as follows:

Localities

Brunswick Co	Mecklenburg Co.
City of Chesapeake	New Kent Co.
Clarke Co.	Northampton Co.
Culpeper Co.	Orange Co.
Dinwiddie Co.	Prince George Co.
Frederick Co.	Rockingham Co.
Greensville Co.	Southampton Co.
Isle of Wight Co.	Sussex Co.
Madison Co.	City of Virginia Beach

Pesticide Dealers

Aqumix - Hardy

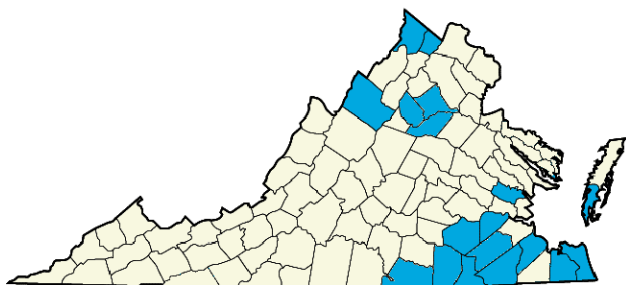


Empty containers – Southampton County

Bedford Augusta Cooperative - Bedford
Royster Clark - Cape Charles
Royster Clark - Hopewell
Royster Clark - Sealston
Royster Clark - St. Stephens Church
Southern States - Central Garage
Southern States - Tappahannock
Southern States - Pulaski
S&W Fertilizer - Wytheville
Timberland Enterprises - Chesterfield

The 2003 Plastic Pesticide Container Recycling Program was offered to all Virginia localities. The Chemical, Drug and Pesticide Unit of Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University (VPI&SU) assisted in disseminating information on the availability of the Program through their electronic mail system to local Virginia

Cooperative Extension (VCE) agents. All localities that participated in the 2002 Program made application for participation in the 2003 Program, except Bedford, Grayson and Surry counties. In addition, Culpeper County applied for participation.



Participating Localities

The pesticide dealers, who participated in the 2002 program, were advised of the 2003 program. All agreed to participate, except Royster Clark, Cape Charles, Southern States, Bedford and Warsaw locations. The majority of the pesticide dealers participated by accumulating their own properly rinsed pesticide containers at their locations where they were scheduled for granulation.

VDACS executed a Memorandum of Agreement with each participating locality, which detailed the responsibilities of each agency and provided for the reimbursement of up to \$1,875 in locality-incurred expenditures for administering the Program.

Localities were responsible for administering the program, including the purchase of equipment (box trucks, trailer, etc.) for the secure, dry storage of properly rinsed pesticide containers, inspecting containers for cleanliness, executing Certificates of Inspections (required by the Ag Container Recycling Council (ACRC)) and assisting at the time of granulation.

VDACS was responsible for providing jet-

rinse nozzles for distribution to participating farmers, training of local personnel in proper container inspection procedures and scheduling the granulator for visits to each site. In all but one locality (Rockingham County), VCE representatives coordinated the program with the local governments, promoted the program, educated growers as to proper pesticide container rinsing procedures, and assisted in the container inspections and granulations.

The program operated under the guidelines of the ACRC, which provided training materials and contractors to granulate the plastic containers and transport the granulated plastic off site for recycling. The granulator contractor for 2003 was USAg Recycling, Inc., Waller, Texas. USAg Recycling stationed a granulator in Goldsboro, North Carolina to service Virginia and provided granulation services (chipping, bagging and removal of the plastic chips) at no cost to Virginia.

Most container collection sites were set up and began to operate during spring, 2003. Some sites were operated year round by local governments. Collection sites were established at regional or county landfills, recycling centers, agricultural chemical dealers, and a county fairground. Containers were collected in trailers, cargo containers, warehouses, unused grain storage bins and covered sheds. Collections were offered by appointment, on fixed dates, or during regular operating hours, depending on the local facilities and resources. Frederick and Clarke counties offered container pick-up services for area fruit growers.

USAg Recycling made 30 site visits in four trips, spending a total of 13 days in Virginia during July, September, October and November 2003. In addition, Aquamix shipped their drums directly to USAg

Recycling for recycling. More than 53,000 containers were accepted and granulated during the season. Table 1 provides the specifics for each participant and collection date.

The majority (77.3%) of the containers were 2.5-gallon jugs. Approximately .5% of the containers were rejected by the granulator for improper rinsing, which was within acceptable guidelines. Program participants arranged for the safe disposal of any unacceptable containers.



Isle of Wight County site

The number of plastic pesticide containers collected and recycled during 2003 decreased by 3.8% from 2002 with localities providing 73% (39,264) and pesticide dealers providing 27% (14,388). The decrease in containers recycled was due to the extreme wetness experienced in the summer. Of the 28 participating localities and pesticide dealers that have participated in past programs, 15 recycled more containers than in the 2002 program. Even though the number of localities and pesticide dealers recycling more containers than in 2002 increased, the increase in the overall number of containers recycled by these

participants was less than the reduction in the number of containers recycled by participants recycling fewer containers in 2003. The greatest number of pesticide containers recycled continued to be in the peanut and cotton production areas of Virginia (Southampton and Dinwiddie counties).

The number of plastic pesticide containers recycled by participating localities increased by .8%. The number of containers recycled ranged from 178 (Rockingham) to 16,000 (Southampton County).

The variability of pesticide containers collected by participating localities may be a function of how the program is administered by the locality. Local program administration varies from local government personnel visiting agricultural producers to inspect and transport the inspected containers to the established collection site, using local landfills and training landfill employees as inspectors, requiring growers to set up appointments for delivering containers to the collection site or establishing times when the collection site would be open for delivery of containers by growers.

The number of plastic pesticide containers recycled by pesticide dealers was reduced by 14.4%. The number of containers recycled ranged from 248 (Bedford Augusta Cooperative, Bedford) to 3,634 (Royster Clark, St. Stephens Church).

The PPCRP will continue in 2004.

Table 1. 2003 PLASTIC PESTICIDE CONTAINER RECYCLING PROGRAM
CONTAINERS RECYCLED/REJECTED BY PARTICIPANT

Participant	Granulation Date(s)	Containers Recycled (gallon)							Containers Rejected
		1	2.5	5	15	30	55	Total	
Timberland, Colonial Heights	July 21, 2003	100	460		15	103		678	0
Royster Clark, Hopewell	July 21, 2003	90	1,147					1,237	0
Southern States, Central Garage	July 22, 2003	412	1,743					2,155	0
Royster Clark, St. Stephens Church	July 22, 2003	691	2,943					3,634	0
Southern States, Tappahannock	July 23, 2003	112	1,335					1,447	0
Royster Clark, Sealston	July 23, 2003		788					788	0
Culpeper	July 24, 2003	256	523		27	8	10	824	0
Madison	July 24, 2003	44	214					258	0
Orange	July 24, 2003	256	1,409	18				1,683	0
Mecklenburg	September 16, 2003	100	200	16				316	6
Brunswick	September 16, 2003	321	736					1,057	15
Greenville	September 16, 2003	61	445					506	19
Virginia Beach	September 17, 2003	180	465			28		673	0
Chesapeake	September 17, 2003	602	983			26		1,611	0
Frederick/Clarke	October 7, 2003	68	289					357	8
Rockingham	October 7, 2003	52	96				30	178	7
Orange	October 7, 2003	45	196				13	254	3
Culpeper	October 7, 2003	61	163			1		225	0
Southern States, Pulaski	October 8, 2003	82	530			8		620	1
S & W Fertilizer, Wytheville	October 8, 2003	159	1,019					1,178	3
Bedford Augusta Cooperative, Bedford	October 9, 2003	38	210					248	18
New Kent	November 4, 2003	220	662					882	5
Timberland, Colonial Heights	November 4, 2003	165	1,680					1,845	0
Prince George	November 4, 2003	39	167					206	0
Sussex	November 4, 2003	112	430					542	3
Dinwiddie	November 4, 2003	1,100	4,600			8		5,708	50
Isle of Wight	November 5, 2003	200	1,800					2,000	5
Southampton	November 5-6, 2003	3,000	13,000					16,000	50
Royster Clark, Cape Charles	November 7, 2003	400	1,300					1,700	25
Northampton	November 7, 2003	450	1,900					2,350	25
Aqumix, Inc., Hardy	Shipped directly to USAg Recycling				2,385	107		2,492	0
Total		9,416	41,433	34	2,427	289	53	53,652	243